

# Value Our Time Elections Act

H.R. 289

Congressman James P. Moran

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## SUMMARY

The Value Our Time Elections Act (VOTE Act), H.R. 289, will modernize and coordinate the nation's voting process to eliminate long lines at the polls, allow online voter registration and require early voting in every state.

## WHY THIS LEGISLATION IS NEEDED

The 2012 presidential elections saw high levels of voter turnout. While many state election officials anticipated the large number of voters, voting sites across the country reported unreasonably long waits and a host of technical and logistical problems. This legislation aims to update our voting system nationwide by taking advantage of Internet registration, early voting, and standardizing minimum voting site resources.

## WHAT THIS LEGISLATION DOES

*The VOTE Act proposes three areas of reform:*

### **1. Online Voter Registration**

Establishes a system where individuals can both register and update their voting information online. Requires state agencies, with the consent of the individuals, to transfer the registration information of persons receiving state services to the online voter registration system. The bill also contains important privacy protections, prohibiting state agencies from storing voter registration information.

### **2. Early Voting**

Requires each state to provide early voting for the seven days prior to a Federal election. Each site must be open for a minimum of four hours. States can apply for exemption from Sunday voting.

### **3. Reduced Wait Times at the Polls**

Ensures voters will not experience waits over one hour on Election Day by properly equipping and staffing voting locations. Directs the Election Assistance Commission to conduct a study to establish minimum number of voting systems, poll workers, and other election resources for each voting site.